(b) if so,whether any complaints have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). The Public Distribution System is universal in Character and does not distinguish the beneficiaries based on income or occupation etc. While the Central Government has assumed responsibility for procurement, storag and transportation of key essential commodities, viz. rice, wheat, levy sugar, edible oils, kerosene and soft coke the implementation of the PDS rests with the State Governments UT Administrations. Complaints about non-availability of PDS items are looked into by the State Governments and UT Administrations and remedial action taken.

The Central Government has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to monitor the supply and availability of essential commodities to the consumers, undertake regular inspection to curb unfair trade practices, diversion of PDS commodities into the open market and over see the distribution of the commodities from the fair price shops to the consumers. State Governments/UT Administrations have also been requested to set up Vigilance Committees at various levels including at Fair Price Shops/ Village level by involving consumers, particularly representatives of women, voluntary and Consumer organisations. Strengthening and streamlining of PDS is a continual process.

Adultration of Coal

2528. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaints of adultration of coal being supplied from coal mines have been received;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Coal consumers, mostly power stations, have made complaints about receipt of oversized coal and presence of stones, shales and other extraneous material. In certain mines, thin bands of clay and stone occur inter-beded in the coal seams While mining coal from such seams, those bands get mixed with coal. Following stops are taken to minimise the quantity of stones and shales in coal sent to consumers:-

(i) while loading coal at the face in under ground mines, these extraneous materials are segregeted.

(ii) In the stocks on surface, wherever feasible mannual picking is done to remov shale and stone pieces, and

(iii) In Coal Handling Plants slow moving picking belts are provided where picking up of shale and stone pieces is done.

Revival of closed Coal Mines

2529. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to revive the closed coal mines in Bihar after they declared as uneconomical;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if so, the time by which these mines are proposed to be opened,

(d) the number of labourers working in said mines,

(e) whether any schemes has been formulated to rehabilitate the workers ren dered jobless, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S B NYAMA GOUDA) (a) to (f) Closed collienes fall in two categories

(1) Those collieries which were taken over as closed and still continue to remain closed

(2) Those collieries which were taken over as working or which were opened after nationalisation but which are now closed

REASONS FOR COLLIERIES OF CATEGORY I CONTINUING TO REMAIN CLOSED ARE

(1) Those could not be merged /re grouped or amalgamated to form a reconsti-tuted mine

(2) Lack of infrastructural facilities on account of geographical location

(3) Isolated patch deposit with very small reserves and seasonal workability

(4) Insufficient geological data available for such mines

(5) Non availability of reliable working plans in respect of old wo.kings

(6) Not viable techno economically

REASONS FOR CLOSURE OF COL-LIERIES OF CATEGORY II ARE

(i) Exhaustion of extractablo reserves

(ii) Highly uneconomic working without any potential for future viability

(iii) Aderse geo-mining conditions

(iv) Safety considerations

Efforts are being made to re-open such of the closed collieries where intensive ex ploration efforts have given indications of their potentiality for commercial exploitation

Recently Government of Bihar has constituted a Joint Inspection Committee to study the feasibility of working the closed collieries in Bihar The Committee would submit its report to Government of Bihar It may be possible to indicate if and when these mines will be reopened for working In case of collieries of category II Coal India Limited rehabilitates the Workers by redploy ment etc Since these collieries are closed the question of number of labourers working in them does not arise

Manufacture of Superior Quality of Coal at Rajarappa Coal Projects

2530 SHRI RAJESH KUMAR Will the *Minister of* COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether superior quality coal has been manufactured at Rajarappa Coal Proj ects with the help of washing machine,

(b) whether the affluent from the coal machine is released in the Damodar river which causes pollution

(c) if so whether any action has been taken or proposed to be taken by the Gov ernment to control the pollution and